

## Office of the Governor

### NEWS RELEASE

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#### **Governor Whitman Addresses Women's Foundation of Colorado**

New Jersey Gov. Christie Whitman today told the Women's Foundation of Colorado that the quality of life for all families will improve by ensuring quality education, restoring our cities as centers of culture and community, instilling personal responsibility in our young people, and preserving land for future generations.

The Women's Foundation of Colorado promotes the participation of women and girls in society. The foundation has provided more than \$2.5 million in grants to more than 110 community-based organizations. Past speakers at the organization's annual luncheon have included Secretary of State Madeline Albright, astronaut Mae Jemison, and Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Prior to speaking to the group of adults, Gov. Whitman spoke to a panel of twenty 16-year-olds in the "Voices Carry" project. The teens train other teenage girls through outreach programs to become community leaders.

Gov. Whitman also today toured the Wyatt-Edison Charter School and visited with participants of the Women's Bean Project.

The Women's Bean Project serves as a stepping-stone to employment and self-sufficiency for women who have been chronically unemployed. The program provides training, education, and support to employees who spend one year producing soup and salsa mixes, gift packages, and clothing. The program focuses on basic employment skills such as arriving at work on time, as well as life skills and job training. The women also attend weekly support groups, one-on-one counseling, and on-site tutoring.